

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Minority Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimonial support on House Bill 47 and the urgent need for legislative action involving the use of Automated External Defibrillators or AEDs availability and access.

I am Matt Mangine, and I stand before you today as a grieving father, alongside my wife Kim, to share a heartbreaking story that forever altered our lives. Our beloved son, Matthew Mangine Jr., tragically collapsed during a soccer practice on June 16, 2020, at the tender age of 16. The harrowing reality is that an automated external defibrillator (AED) was not deployed at the scene until the EMTs arrived, a painstaking 12 minutes after his collapse. During our subsequent investigation, we discovered that an AED was within a mere 250 feet of where our son fell, yet it remained unused. The critical window for AED effectiveness is within the first three minutes of such an incident. To our dismay, the high school's Emergency Action Plan, which indicated the presence of several AEDs on-site, failed to save our child—an unimaginable loss that no parent should endure.

The crux of our message today revolves around AED access and the importance of regular training and implementation of Emergency Action Plans (EAP's). We wish to share a story of success, one that shines a ray of hope in the face of our tragedy. Taylor High School in Cleves, Ohio, stands as a beacon of change. Over the last three years, our foundation and the school have partnered to train every athlete, student, coach, and teacher at this school. Every sport at Taylor mandates hands-on refresher training for coaches already certified in CPR/AED before each season commences. This commitment comes at zero cost, and it is thanks to the dedication of Athletic Trainers Lauren White and Betsy Bonifas, who have made readiness for any catastrophic event their passion. We earnestly hope that all schools across Ohio will adopt similar educational programs.

Sudden cardiac arrest is a formidable foe, sparing no one, regardless of age or physical fitness. Each year, thousands of young people fall victim to sudden cardiac arrest, with many losing their lives. It is the leading cause of death among youth athletes, claiming a student athlete's life every 3.5 days. Yet, with the presence of AEDs and effective EAPs, survival rates soar.

We must acknowledge that it is not a question of "if" but "when" this silent menace strikes. While we've made progress in expanding AED availability in public spaces,

much work remains. Specifically, I am here to advocate for changes in the bylaws governing AED use in schools and athletic venues.

At present, many schools lack AEDs on their premises, and even those that possess them may not maintain them adequately or make them readily accessible. This leaves students, teachers, and staff exposed to unnecessary risks. We implore you to mandate that all schools possess AEDs on-site and ensure their easy accessibility.

I beseech you to consider the gravity of this issue and take legislative action that will render our schools safer for everyone. By enacting these changes, we can substantially improve the odds of survival for those confronted with sudden cardiac arrest, offering peace of mind to parents, teachers, and students alike.

In honor of our beloved Matthew, whose favorite color was purple, the foundation my wife Kim and I established bears the same color as its symbol. I want to stress that this issue transcends political lines—it is not a matter of blue or red, but a matter of purple.

Thank you for your unwavering attention to this pivotal matter.